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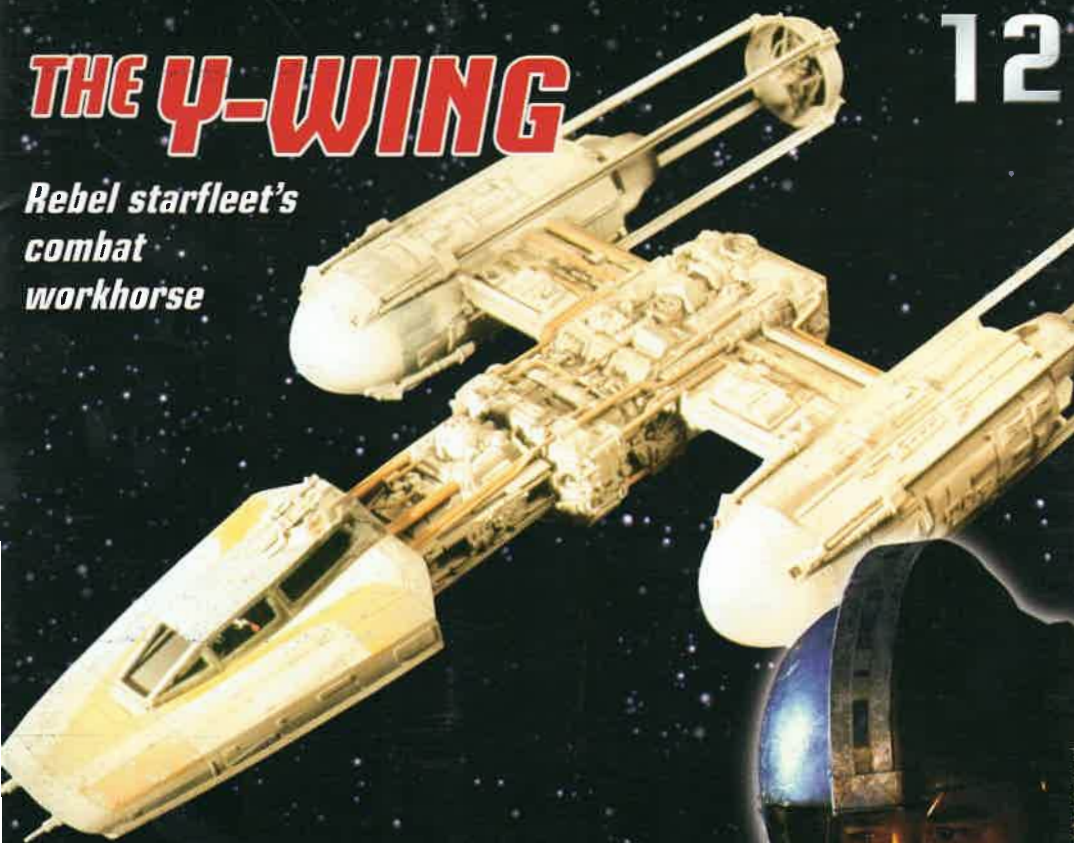
12

THE Y-WING

Rebel starfleet's combat workhorse



Rebel heroes' reward

Planning the attack

LUCAS BOOKS

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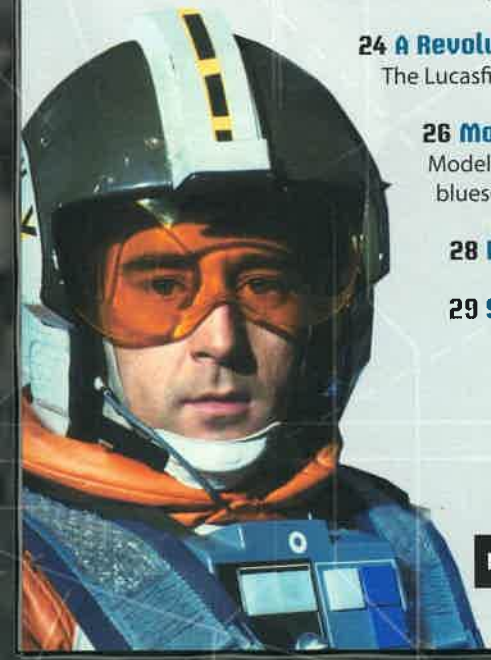

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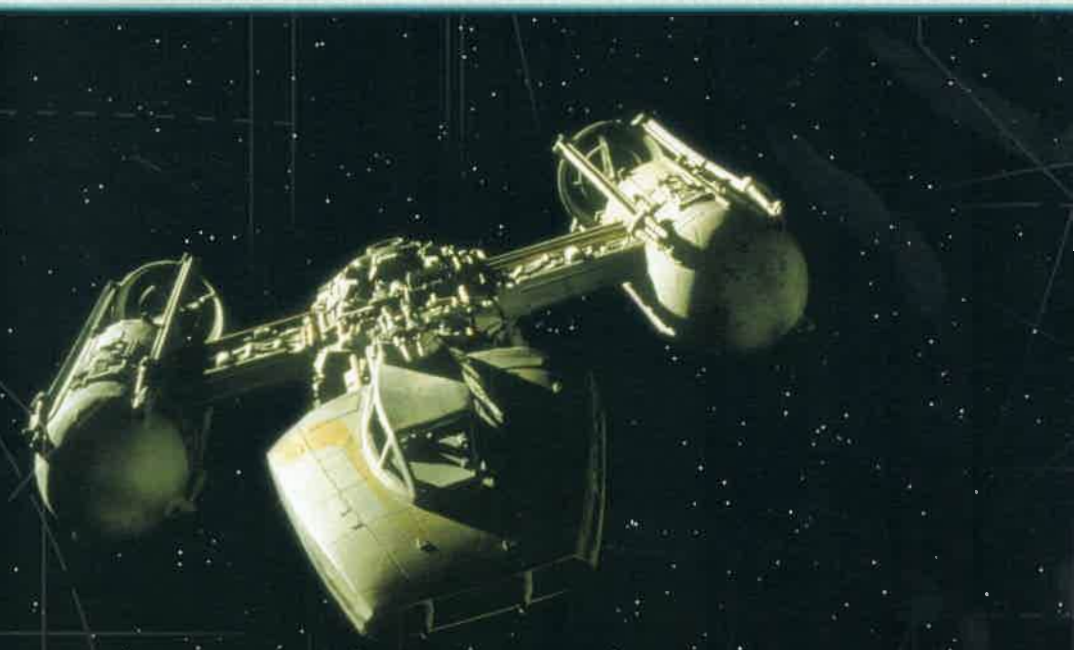
STAR WARS



"THEY'RE THE WORKHORSES OF THIS OUTFIT, I CAN TELL YOU THAT."

REBEL PILOT TIREE

From the struggle to destroy the *Malevolence*'s twin ion cannon during the Clone Wars, to the desperate assault on the Death Star at Yavin, and through to the seemingly impossible victory over the Yuuzhan Vong, the Y-wing fighter bomber has been a stalwart defender of peace and justice. Despite its age, this tough starfighter remains in service across the galaxy.

A TOUGH OLD FIGHTER

LEGEND OF THE Y-WING FIGHTER

Rugged, easily modified and capable of numerous mission configurations, the Y-wing fighter/bomber came into service for the Old Republic and was still being used to defend the New Republic many years later.

Manufactured by the immensely successful, long-surviving Koensayr Manufacturing company, the BTL Y-wing starfighter was one of the few complete vessels ever made by Koensayr, which usually specialized in starship parts. Unlike other companies that unsuccessfully branched out into starship construction, Koensayr made sure to target a specific market point – the need for a light, multi-purpose fighter/bomber. Their design for the Y-wing was a success from the very beginning.

A Tough Old Bird

The first model of the Y-wing starfighter that went into service was the BTL-B. It sported full armour plating, something rarely seen in later years. The BTL-B was configured as a two-seater fighter, with the pilot also in charge of the forward cannon and the torpedo launchers, and a gunner sitting in a bubble-like rotating upper pod complete with its own cannon. An astromech nestled in a droid socket behind the cockpit to deal with minor repairs, systems balancing

and, of course, take care of astrogation.

As well as being armour-plated, the Y-wing was heavily shielded for a fighter of its class. Nowhere near as manoeuvrable as the Jedi starfighters, it was still fast enough for combat. Its biggest advantage was the variable weapons payload. The BTL-B could be fitted out to carry bombs or torpedoes. Alternatively, it could be easily modified to carry additional passengers, or be configured for scanning runs.

Clone Wars Service

In this original form, the BTL-B Y-wing was used by the forces of the Galactic Republic during the closing years of the Clone Wars. The mission flexibility that had been built into the design from the outset made the Y-wing popular.

A squadron of these ships saw early action against the Separatist flagship of General Grievous, the *Malevolence*. Although the losses amongst the Y-wings' clone pilots were significant, the surviving vessels, led into battle by Jedi Knight Anakin Skywalker, were able to press home their attack and destroyed the *Malevolence*'s two massive ion cannons.

INTO THE ATTACK
AGAINST THE EMPIRE

The Galactic Empire had no use for the Y-wing, so Koensayr Manufacturing looked elsewhere. With its proven track record in combat and, at least to begin with, easy access to spares, the Y-wing was an easy sell to civilian groups and planetary governments. As a result, the Y-wing proliferated and eventually became the preferred starfighter for the Rebel Alliance.

By the time of the Galactic Civil War, there were two principal Y-wing models – the BTL-S3 and the BTL-A4. The S3 retained the BTL-B's twin-seat arrangement although, as with later BTL-B variants, the bubble turret was removed in favour of extending the cockpit. The ion cannon was attached to the top of the cockpit and had a slightly reduced field of fire as a result. In its full armour, the BTL-S3 had a slimmer profile than its predecessor but as the Civil War ground on, seeing a fully armoured S3 or A4 was a rare occurrence. Spares for the Alliance's Y-wings grew rarer, and maintaining the fighters became more difficult.

Preferred Variant

While the grip of the Empire tightened, the A4 was already replacing the S3 as the Rebel Alliance's preferred variant, as much because of a shortage of personnel as anything else. The A4 was a single seater, in which the pilot could opt to have the top-mounted ion cannon fixed to fire forward or,

As on the X-wing, an R2 or R4 astromech droid fits into a droid socket behind the cockpit and monitors all flight, navigation and power systems.

more often, backwards. The A4 was also tougher and able to take much more physical damage. However, the strengthened space frame left limited room for other components, leading to lighter shielding and less accurate targeting systems.

Hard Times

The Y-wing remained a favourite amongst some Alliance pilots for a long time, and was still the most numerous fighter in the Alliance fleet, even after the introduction of the X-wing, A-wing and B-wing fighters. However, the high maintenance and punishing flight schedules eventually led Alliance technicians to leave the armour plating off the Y-wing fighters.

Though it suffered by comparison with the X-wing's agility or the A-wing's speed, and though not as heavily armed as the B-wing, the BTL Y-wing was a vital element of the Alliance's eventual victory over the Galactic Empire.

WEDGE ANTILLES

ROGUE, REBEL AND HERO

One of the greatest heroes of the Rebel Alliance and the New Republic, Wedge Antilles is recognised as being among the best pilots in the galaxy. He was instrumental in destroying two Death Stars, and in many other Alliance and Republic victories, great and small.

Wedge Antilles was just 16 when a pirate by the name of Loka Hask destroyed the refuelling station that Wedge's parents ran in the Corellia system. The youngster's parents were both killed, sacrificing their own lives for the sake of their son and the station personnel. Wedge just missed out on avenging himself on Hask, and afterwards used the insurance payout from the station to buy a second-hand freighter and began working for smuggler Booster Terrik, who was covertly supplying the Rebel Alliance. During one smuggling run to the Rebels, Wedge answered a call for combat pilots and joined up.

Rogue Squadron

The genesis of Antilles' most famous command, the justifiably legendary Rogue Squadron, came in the wake of the Battle of Yavin. Wedge was one of the only two surviving X-wing pilots, along with Luke Skywalker. The two became friends and were assigned to Rogue Flight, one half of newly formed Red Squadron led by Commander Narra.

Shortly before the Battle of Hoth, Narra and his flight group were destroyed. After the battle, Rogue Flight became Rogue Squadron – comprising 12 pilots, including survivors of Hoth, led by Luke Skywalker and Wedge. With Luke frequently drawn away, Wedge regularly found himself in command. Though the squadron was more often associated with X-wings, mission demands saw Wedge flying many different craft,

During the Battle of Endor, Rogue Squadron flew as Red Group, in homage to the original X-wings that took part in the attack on the first Death Star.

PROFILE

Wedge Antilles
Homeworld:
Corellia
Species:
Human
Height:
1.7 metres
Affiliation:
Rebel Alliance

including BTL Y-wings. Wedge, along with many Alliance pilots, dubbed the Y-wing the 'wallowing pig', regularly mocking its capabilities. However, for many missions the ability to carry so much ordnance made the Y-wing invaluable.

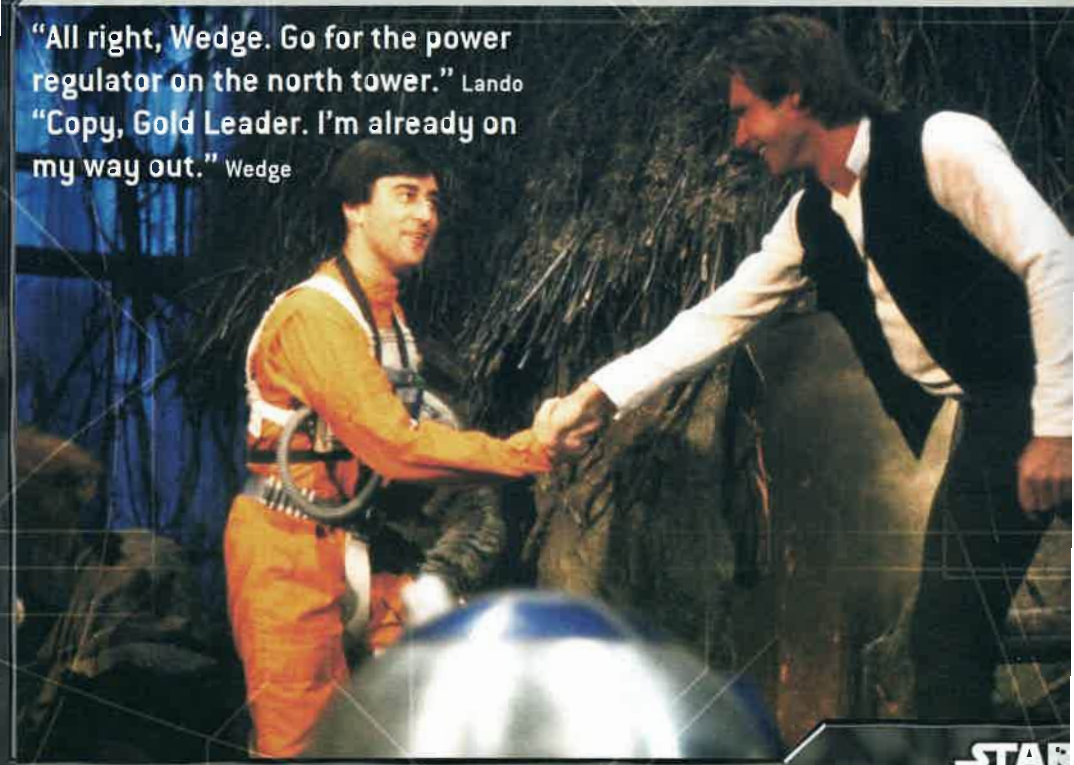
From Kile II To Kessel

A year after the Battle of Yavin, the newly formed Rogue Squadron

were attached to the main Alliance command ship, *Home One*. They were sent on a mission to destroy the Imperial installations on the planet Kile II, a geologically unstable world that was, nonetheless, critical to the Empire's operations in that sector.

The Rogues flew their Y-wings through a series of narrow canyons that criss-crossed the planet – a tactic that allowed them to come in under the enemy radar. They were then able to use their starfighters' bombs to destroy both the Imperial main sensor and communications array, before attacking the local garrison. The Rogues then followed an Imperial shuttle that led them to the main spaceport, which they also crippled.

During the raid, Wedge was shot down by what was then a rare flight of TIE interceptors. As Wedge Antilles was already a name that the Imperials recognised, his captors sent the Rebel pilot to the high-security Imperial prison on Kessel. There he was to be terminated, but fortunately the Rogues were able to rescue him and Wedge was back in a Y-wing in time for the squadron's successful raid on an Imperial facility on Sullust.



"All right, Wedge. Go for the power regulator on the north tower." Lando
"Copy, Gold Leader. I'm already on my way out." Wedge

Behind the scenes

Actor Denis Lawson – Ewan McGregor's real-life uncle – played Wedge Antilles in most of the classic trilogy. However, while the script identifies the character next to Mark Hammill during the Yavin briefing as Wedge, and the character's radio voice-over (provided by actor David Ankrum) is the same, the pilot is actually played by British actor Colin Higgins.

A Daring Raid

Wedge continued to fly Y-wings, most notably during a daring raid on Prefsbelt IV a short while before the Battle of Endor. As on Kile II, he once again came in under the Imperial radar, bombing and destroying isolated stations on the way.

Antilles flew his Y-wing right into the Imperial base and made off with the Lambda-class shuttle *Tydirium*. This was the craft that was later used by General Solo and his Rebel commandos to infiltrate the moon of Endor.

Friends And Rivals

Wedge Antilles frequently, if good-naturedly, locked horns with Alliance (and later New Republic) Y-wing ace pilot, Horton Salm. Salm had led the Y-wing flights at the Battle of Endor, flying his starfighters in co-ordinated attacks on Imperial capital ships alongside the B-wings that were supposed to have replaced the older Y-wings.

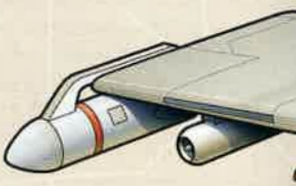
Salm was a strict disciplinarian, while Wedge was more relaxed with his ace pilots. While they would rarely admit it publicly, the two were both very appreciative of each other's abilities, and Salm's Y-wings were regularly in operation with Rogue Squadron.

No Chance To Retire

Wedge flew for the New Republic for many years before retiring. Later galactic conflict and a new civil war drew him out of retirement to fly beside his old Rogue Squadron commander, Jedi Master Luke Skywalker once more – only not in Y-wings this time.

K-WING

THE KOENSAYR BTL-S8 ASSAULT STARFIGHTER



In the era of the New Republic, after the first 'death' of Emperor Palpatine at Endor, Koensayr Manufacturing was commissioned to create a new fighter/bomber. The K-wing was Koensayr's magnificent response.

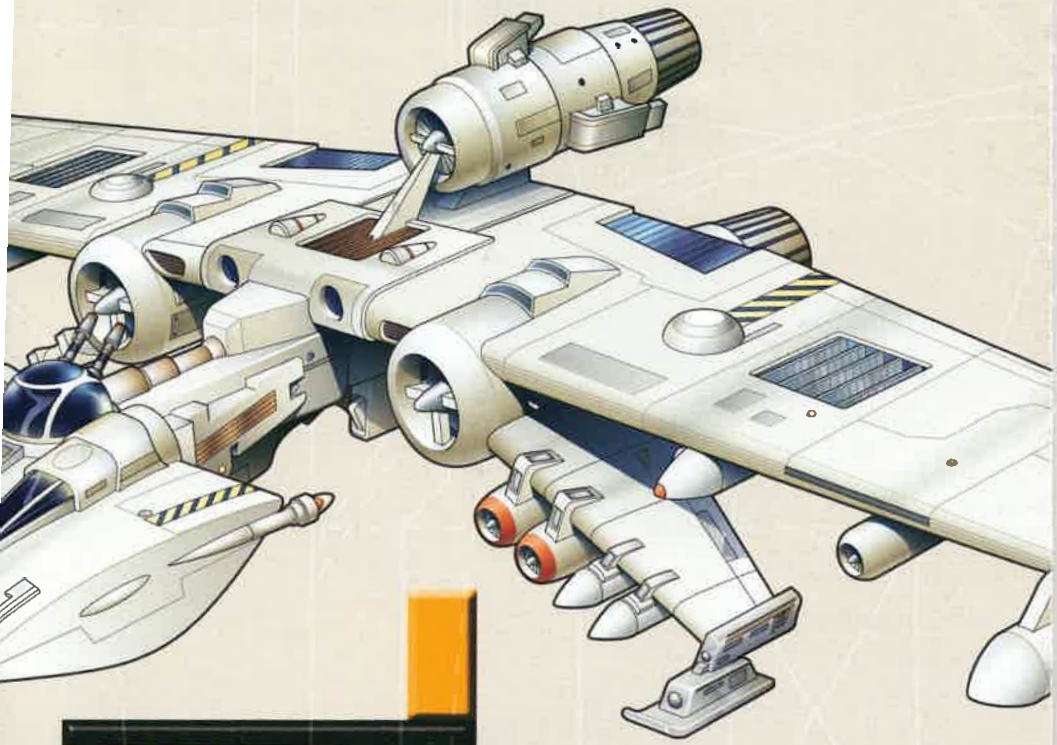
As with the Y-wing, the K-wing was designed to fill a very specific combat role. This relatively slow but ultra-heavily armed fighter/bomber was designed to bring an impressive arsenal of weapons to bear on capital ships, space stations, ground transports and installations, for example.

The first K-wings to see action were deployed successfully, though with heavy losses, in the Black Fleet Crisis some 16 years after the Battle of Yavin. While heavily armed and armoured, those K-wings had no defensive weapons. They relied instead on back-up from other starfighters. They also had no hyperdrive, so had to be deployed from a capital ship.

Final Design

Koensayr went back to the drawing board with the K-wing, using flight data to come up with an improved design. Based on the original spaceframe, the K-wing still had three wings set around a central stabilizer. It had three ion engines – two on the main wing and one mounted above the central stabilizer (as opposed to below in the earlier design).

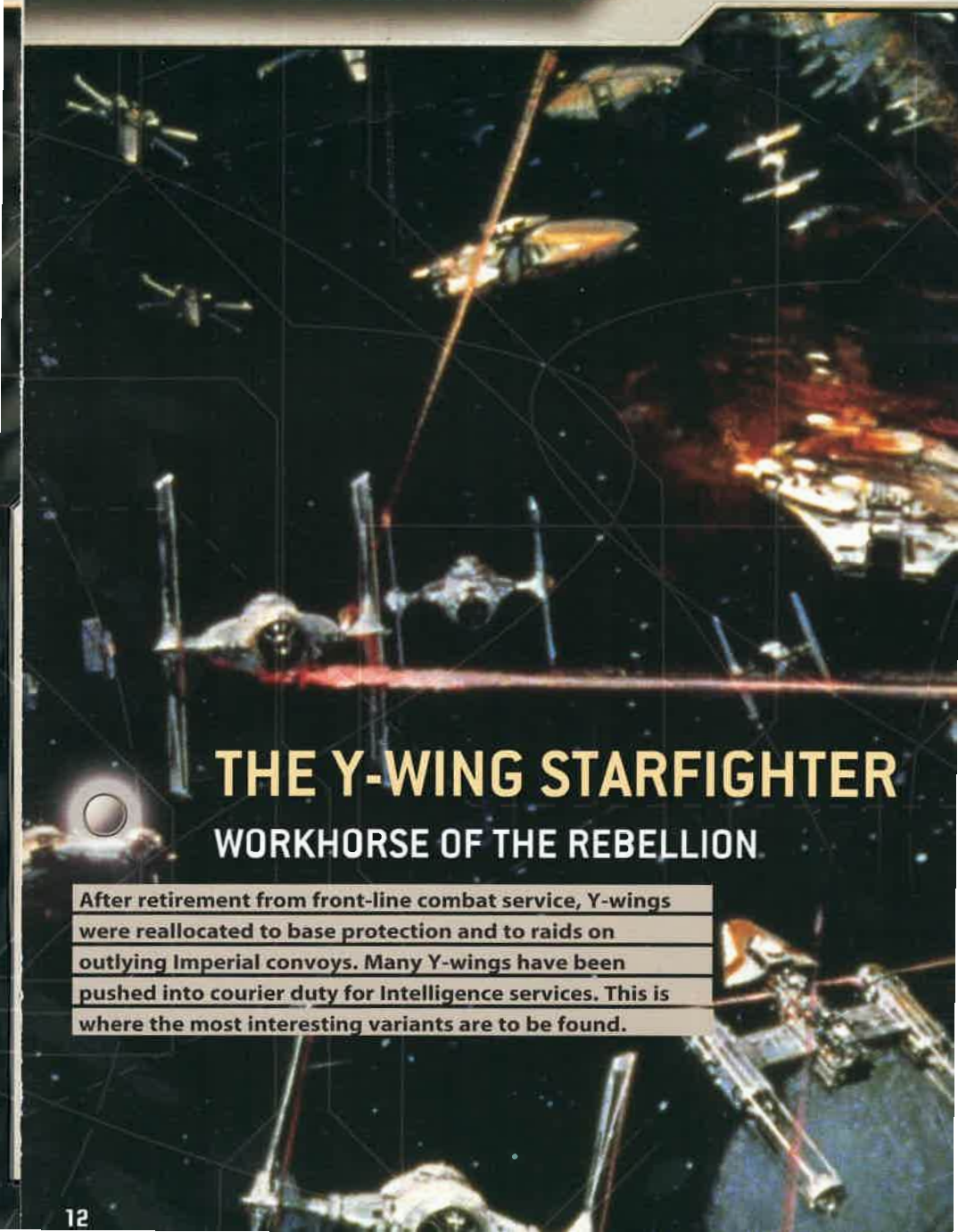
The main change was up front. The cockpit was reconfigured, with pilot and bombardier now sitting on either side of the central stabilizer. Between them was a rear-facing



The K-wing PROFILE

Type:
Assault Starfighter
Manufacturer:
Koensayr
Speed:
2,700 G / 1,000km/h
Size:
16m long
Weapons:
Twin laser cannon, quad laser cannon, flechette missiles, concussion missiles, proton torpedoes
Affiliation:
New Republic

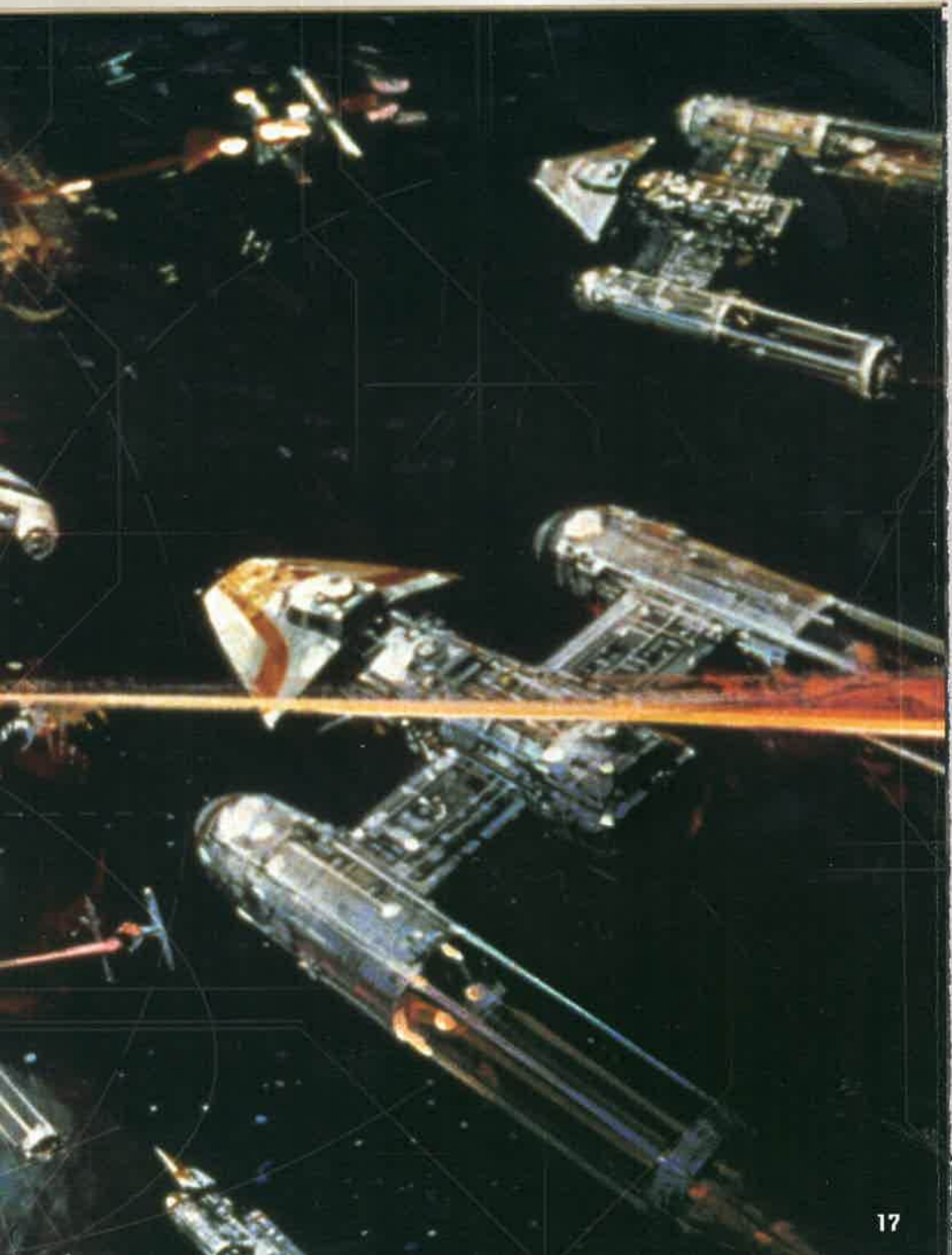
laser turret with its own gunner. In a ball-turret slung under the front nose, a second gunner provided additional defensive fire. The command module could still detach and serve as a painfully slow-moving escape pod. The redesigned K-wings were very successful, and were still in service during the Second Galactic Civil War many years after their first deployment.



THE Y-WING STARFIGHTER

WORKHORSE OF THE REBELLION

After retirement from front-line combat service, Y-wings were reallocated to base protection and to raids on outlying Imperial convoys. Many Y-wings have been pushed into courier duty for Intelligence services. This is where the most interesting variants are to be found.



Y-WING FIGHTER

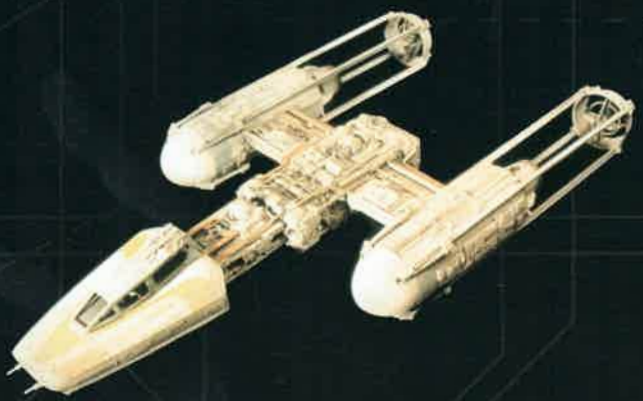
Type
Attack starfighter

Length
16 metres

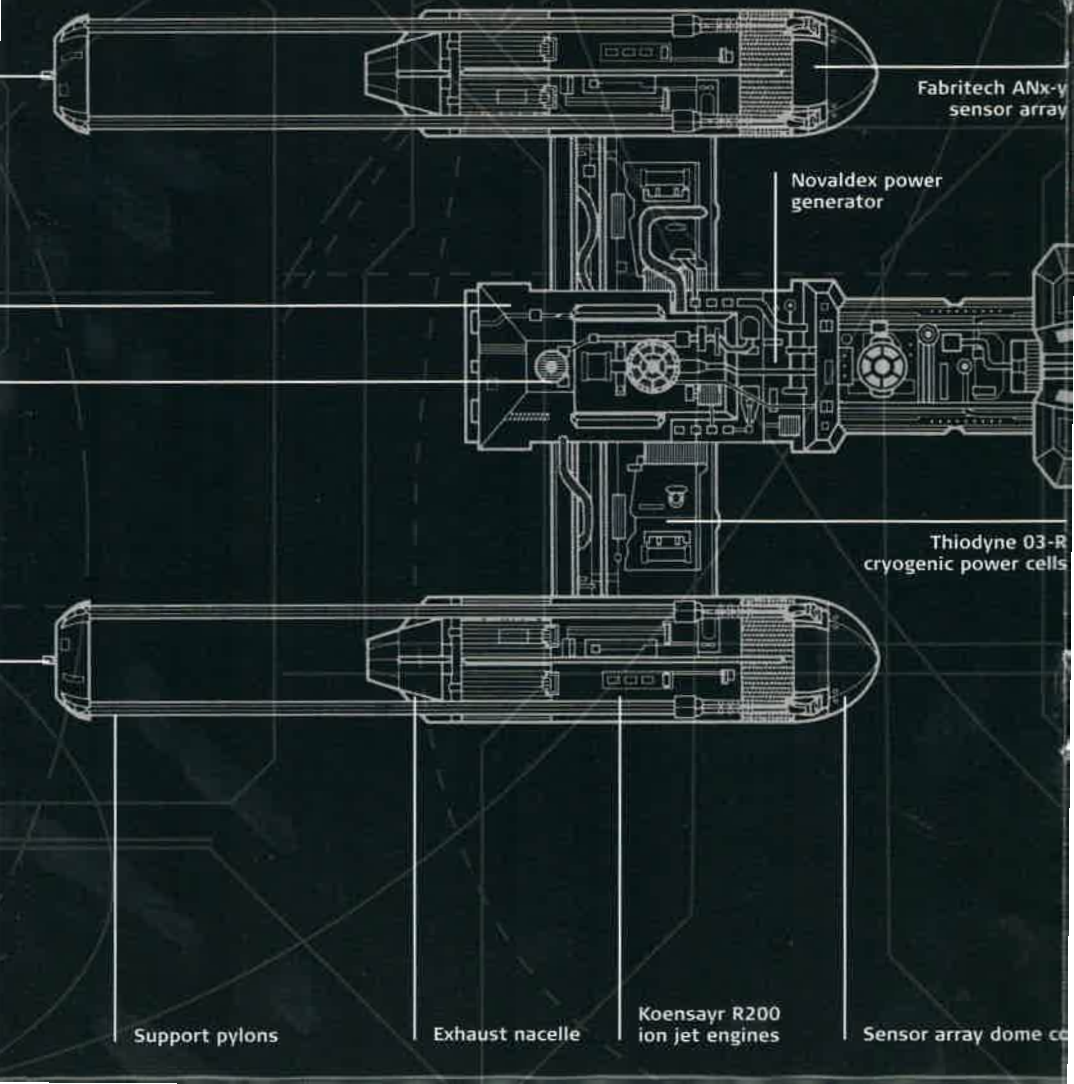
Manufacturer
Koensayr Manufacturing

Weapon
Heavy laser cannons
Twin ion cannon
(on rotating turret)
Proton torpedo launchers
Proton bombs

Affiliation
Rebel Alliance



Y-wing componentry has made itself into other Alliance hardwa
T-47 snowspeeder is a modified Y-wing fighter cockpit refit. Th
to the familiarity most pilots have with the control layout. The
sections of Y-wing armour along its hull.



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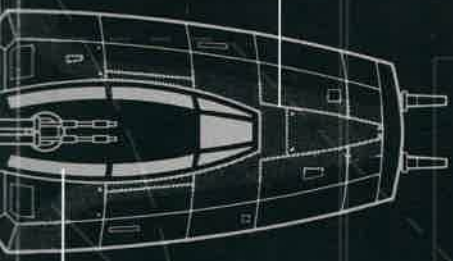
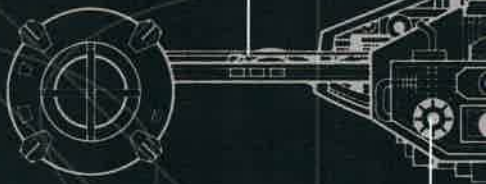


Primary sensor array with computer targeting system

In the cockpit, the pilot controls a pair of forward laser cannons and the twin proton torpedo launchers. The Y-wing is also equipped with a turret-mounted ion cannon, located on top of the canopy. An extended version of the Y-wing cockpit supports a copilot, who generally functions as a gunner.

Engine pylon

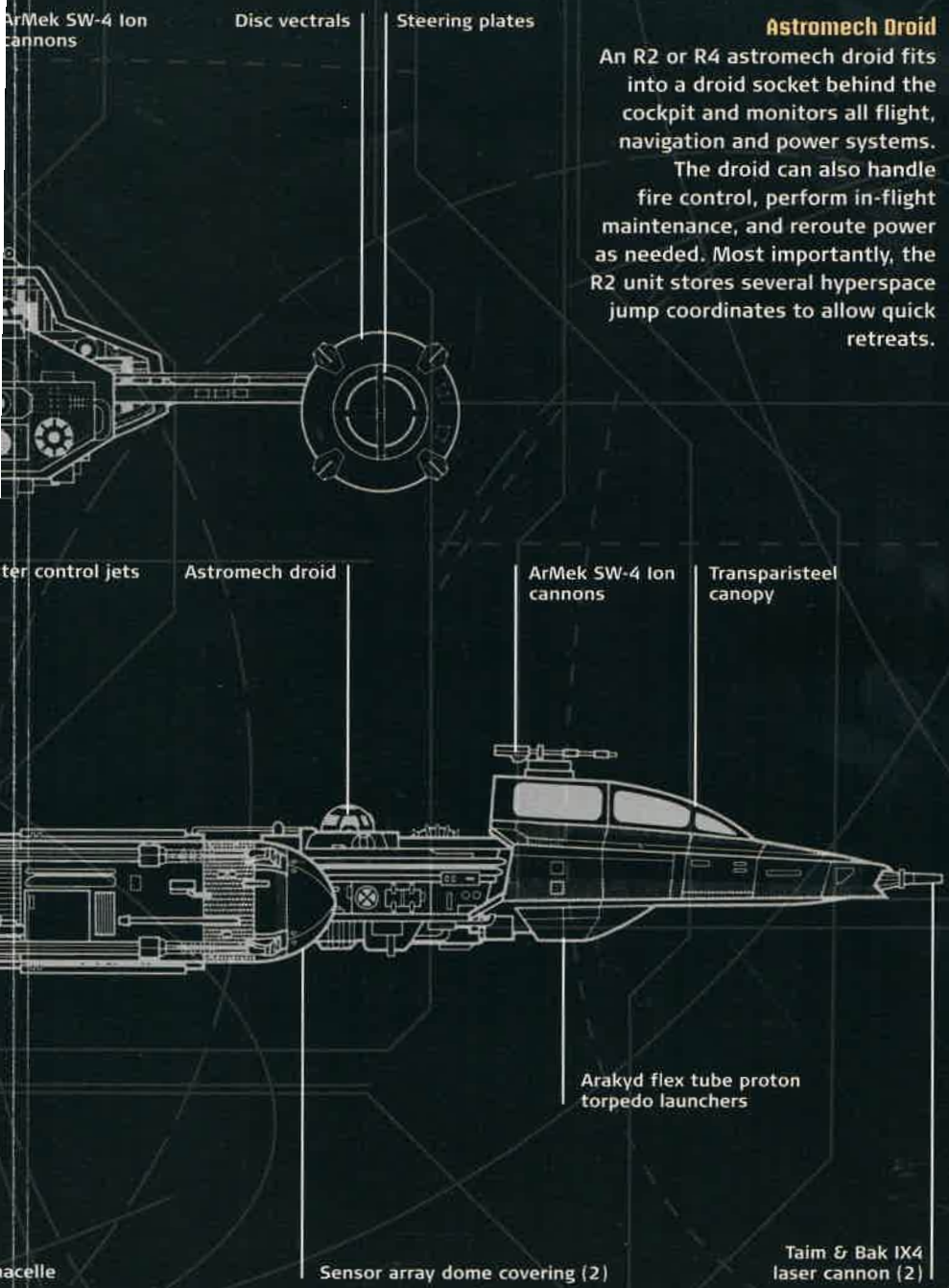


Disc vectrals

Thru

Support pylons

Exhaust



Astromech Droid

An R2 or R4 astromech droid fits into a droid socket behind the cockpit and monitors all flight, navigation and power systems. The droid can also handle fire control, perform in-flight maintenance, and reroute power as needed. Most importantly, the R2 unit stores several hyperspace jump coordinates to allow quick retreats.

GENERAL JAN DODONNA

WISE REBEL LEADER

A brilliant tactician, starship designer and an inspirational, tireless leader, Jan Dodonna's military career began with the Old Republic and continued in service to the New Republic.

During the Clone Wars, Jan Dodonna served with great distinction as commander of one of the first fleets of *Victory*-class Star Destroyers, serving alongside the Jedi in combat and as a negotiator. Where Dodonna truly excelled was in tactics. He and fellow Republic officer Adar Tallon revolutionised space warfare, as Dodonna focused on logistics and siege tactics while Tallon's expertise was in starship combat.

The Empire's Man?

As Republic became Empire, Dodonna served on, though he saw his tactics used to increasingly oppressive ends. Eventually he retired and, as a reluctant hero of the new Empire, was given a moon above his home world of Commenor. At first, Dodonna would not speak out against the Empire, to which he had sworn loyalty, however accidentally. Contacted by former *senator* Mon Mothma, Dodonna initially refused to join the Rebel Alliance. However, when he became the target of an Imperial assassination squad, he changed his mind and he joined the Rebellion.

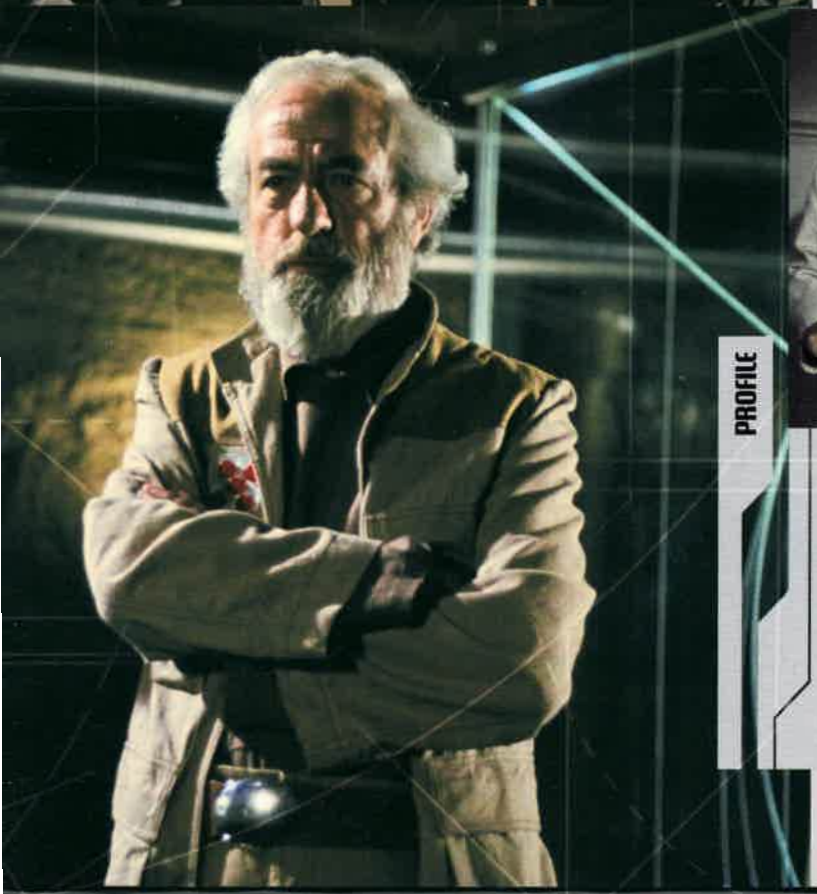
The Hard Path

Dodonna brought his considerable talents to bear on destroying the Empire. He devised the A-wing starfighter with Adar Tallon, reorganised the Alliance logistics and supplies structure and, of course, devised the successful assault on the first Death Star.

When the Empire besieged Yavin IV after the loss of the Death Star, Dodonna organised its successful defence for six months. During the final evacuation, on hearing of the death of his son, Dodonna stayed behind to delay the Imperial attack by setting off a huge explosion. Thought dead by the Alliance, he was captured by the Empire. Years later, Dodonna was rescued and returned to serve the New Republic successfully for many years.

Yavin IV

Dodonna provided support from Yavin IV as ground control, codenamed Base One. His tactics proved solid, and Dodonna was on hand to congratulate the young heroes of Yavin at the awards ceremony after their victory.



PROFILE

General
Jan Dodonna

Species
Human

Height
1.82 metres

Weapon
Blaster pistol

Affiliation
Rebel Alliance

YAVIN IV

MASSASSI TEMPLE COMPLEX

When Jedi Master Luke Skywalker established his new training academy on Yavin IV, once again making use of the ancient temple complex there, he had no idea that he had housed this beacon of hope for the galaxy's new Jedi in a place with a dark, Sith history.

To Luke and his friends and associates in the New Republic, the jungle moon of Yavin represented the rekindling of hope – after all, the Empire had lost its first Death Star in its orbit. The ancient temples, though crumbling and tumble-down in places, were solid enough, offering both community areas and personal space in an environment that was beautiful and serene, but also dangerous and challenging. The ancient people of Yavin IV, the Massassi, had long been extinct - only their temples remained..

A Dark Legacy

Little is known of the Massassi, a warrior people who came to Yavin IV with their Sith master, Dark Lord Naga Sadow. Fleeing the Great Hyperspace War, Sadow was treated as a god by the Massassi, and the temples on Yavin IV were built in his honour. However, Sadow experimented on the Massassi, turning them by dark alchemy into primitive but powerful wielders of the dark side of the Force. Eventually, Sadow went into hibernation and was destroyed by Freedon Nadd. Lastly, and most significantly, the Sith Lord Exar Kun came to Yavin IV, and his spirit was imprisoned there in a dark ceremony fuelled by the life force of the remaining Massassi. It was the disembodied Kun who would trouble the new Jedi academy.

In His Father's Footsteps

Luke could have no idea that on Yavin IV, he was treading once again in the footsteps of Anakin Skywalker. Four months after the Battle of Geonosis saw the Clone Wars begin, Anakin had been led to Yavin IV in pursuit of the dark-side acolyte Asajj Ventress. The two fought through the temple complex, with Anakin giving in to his rage and injuring a stunned Ventress, whom he left for dead.

The ceremony occurred the day after the Death Star was destroyed.

Behind the scenes

Making a brief appearance in *Star Wars: A New Hope*, the Massassi temples were actually the ancient pyramids found in Tikal, Guatemala. A skeleton crew of ILM cameramen traveled to Guatemala to film the handful of scenes required. When they arrived, they discovered that the path to the 300ft summit was completely overrun by the jungle. They hired locals to hack through the brush with machetes. For the shot of the Rebel heroes entering the temple's massive hangar, a matte painting was used.

The Jedi Praxeum

When Luke Skywalker and his new Jedi students arrived on Yavin IV, the Massassi temple complex had already survived a great deal over the many thousands of years since it had been built to honour a Sith Lord. The most recent exterior scars left by the bombs set off by General Jan Dodonna to delay the Imperial advance during the evacuation of the Rebel base on Yavin IV a few short years before had all but faded, smothered by vines and creepers. However, there was still much work to do, inside and out, to make the temples into a suitable home for Luke Skywalker and his handful of new Jedi.

Unfortunately, the disturbance caused by the presence of so many Force users awoke the imprisoned spirit of Exar Kun from his slumber. The dark Jedi attacked the Jedi students and Master Skywalker.

Ultimately, Luke's students rallied around him and drove Exar Kun into oblivion.

Final Destruction

The new Jedi academy, also known as a Praxeum, thrived for a long time, despite attacks from the Imperial Remnant, the Second Imperium and the would-be new dark Jedi, known as The Reborn.

The Great Temple was rebuilt after the Imperium attack, but it was not destined to last for another 5,000 years. Despite a series of planetary shields that were installed by the New Republic, the Praxeum was captured and destroyed by alien Yuuzhan Vong invaders. The main temple complex was flattened, razed to the ground by Vong technology. Though some subterranean levels remain, the greatest work of the lost Massassi people was itself lost forever.

THE LUCASFILM ARCHIVES

PRESERVING THE ART

For so long now a place of wonder in the minds of fans of Lucasfilm's output, the genesis of the Lucasfilm Archives was a throwaway moment that has resulted in so much being saved that would otherwise have been thrown away.

In the Spring of 1983, with *Return of the Jedi* gearing up for release, someone involved in the publicising of the film had an idea – get a shot of George Lucas surrounded by models, puppets, and props used to make all three of the *Star Wars* films. Present that day was Deborah Fine, who became Director of Research & Archives:

> "It wasn't until that day on the gigantic ILM soundstage that we had seen all of these pieces in one place. We were stunned by the volume of it. George turned to me and said, "You know, we need to save all this stuff. We need to start an archive. You're in charge of it.""

Organising The Collection

The first archives were rented storage in an industrial park. Between 1983 and 1988 the first archivist, David Craig, began the huge task of photographing and cataloguing artefacts. In 1988, Donald Bies took over. He oversaw the move to a specially built archive facility, inside what looked like a traditional barn building at Skywalker Ranch, complete with temperature-controlled storage. At around the same time, Bies also organised the display of many items from the Archive in the George Lucas Exhibition in Japan.

By the time that Episode I: *The Phantom Menace* went into production, a second storage facility was added, so that the Archive now totalled over 4,500 square metres of storage. In 1997, the first major Western exhibition of material from the Archives, entitled *Star Wars: The Magic of Myth*, was launched at the

"This is very much a collection in use. For Episode I, the Archives got requests early on from the Art Department for props for reference. We sent large amounts of material to Leavesden Studios, from masks and costume to R2-D2 units and Luke Skywalker's original landspeeder," confirms curator Paloma Anoveros.

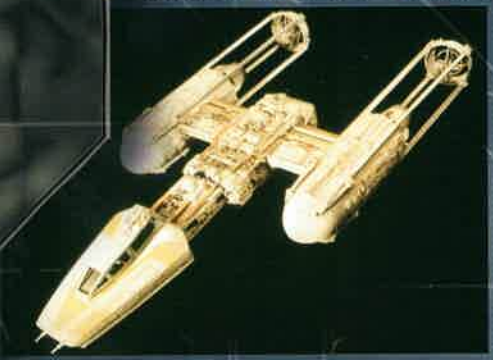
Smithsonian Institution in Washington before travelling the US and then the world. By then the Archive, guided by curator Paloma Anaveros, was completely focused on preservation of the huge and growing collection. As well as film props, models, costumes and other material from the films, the Archive took over a vast amount of material that had been created by the companies who were granted licences to make *Star Wars* products.

Not Just Toys

Lucas had always maintained a personal interest in the licensed products produced from his films, even keeping his own lists in the early years. In 1994, Marc Wendt was hired for six months to organise the clearing of a room at Skywalker Ranch of a rather jumbled collection of licensed products. The original six-month hiring went on to become a full-time job, with Marc becoming Archive Supervisor, working to preserve an important and growing part of the *Star Wars* legacy.

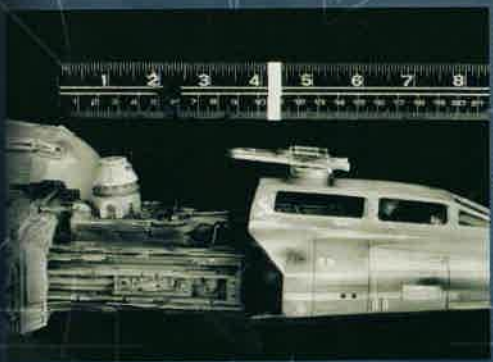
THE Y-WING
AN ILLUSION OF SPEED

FILMING THE Y-WING FIGHTER MODEL



1 The top view of the final production model of the BTL-A4 Y-wing fighter shows the compromise that was made in the design of the cockpit.

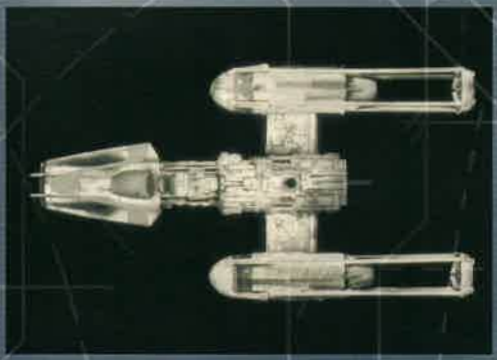
2 The book, *Star Wars: Incredible Cross-Sections*, revealed that new Y-wings would feature smoother coverings over the exposed cross-spar and fuselage.



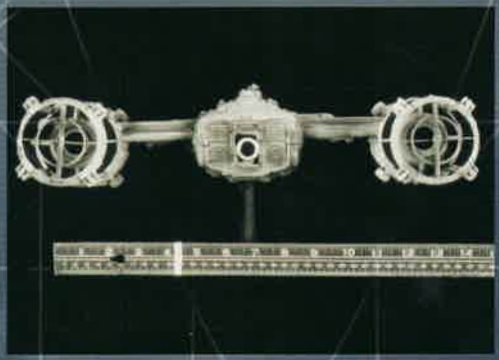
5 A close-up of the fuselage showing an astromech droid in position reveals the incredible detail of a model that would only be on screen for seconds.

6 The team at Industrial Light and Magic (ILM) constructed a number of different Y-wing models for filming the flying scenes.

The early Colin Cantwell concept models of the Y-wing featured a bubble turret dome for the gunner to sit in. Limitations with bluescreen technology at the time made filming this impossible.



3 Even the underside of the Y-wing was modelled in full detail to allow the miniatures to be filmed in every possible flight attitude.



4 This rear view with a ruler in shot reveals the actual size of the miniatures, which were constructed from plastic and other materials.

7 Dennis Murren (ILM visual effects supervisor) puts the finishing touches to a model of the Y-wing starfighter set up for bluescreen filming.

8 Only one full-sized Y-wing starfighter prop was built for the film. Here it appears in a general view of the Massassi Temple hangar set.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 What was Wedge Antilles called in the first draft of the Star Wars script?

2 What did the Massassi look like?

3 Are the Lucasfilm Archives devoted only to the ***Star Wars*** films?

ANSWERS:

1 Wedge began life as a young human pilot called Chewie. The Antilles surname is quite common in the *Star Wars* galaxy, with a number of characters sharing it without being in any way related.

2 The Massassi had rust-coloured skin, yellow glowing eyes and red-brown hair. Their facial features were a mix of simian and lizard elements.

3 Almost all Lucasfilm movies are represented in the Archives – from *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* to *Howard the Duck* and *Willow*.

D

Dejarik

Technology
Episode IV

Beginning life as a game conceived by Jedi, Dejarik (or vrax) was hugely popular across the galaxy, spawning tournaments of all sizes – from small town contests to one spanning the entire Galactic Core. Even Han Solo had a board on the *Millennium Falcon*.

Dio, Lexi

Character
Episode II

At the outbreak of the Clone Wars, Dio was the Senate Representative for the argi-world of Uyter. Part of Chancellor Palpatine's inner circle, she opposed the Military Creation Act. During the chaos of the Clone Wars, Dio was assassinated.

Dormé

Character
Episode II

Dormé was both friend and highly trained bodyguard to Senator Padmé Amidala, former Queen of Naboo. Despite her concerns for her friend, she remained on Coruscant while Padmé travelled to Naboo with Anakin Skywalker. Dormé had spotted the growing attraction between the Senator and the Jedi, and hoped it would bring her friend only happiness.

Dreis, Garven

Character
Episode IV

Red Leader Garven Dreis led the X-wing flight group at the Battle of Yavin. Though his own run at the exhaust port failed, his decision to leave Luke Skywalker in command of two other X-wings on the second run resulted in the destruction of the Death Star. An experienced pilot, Dreis flew with Anakin during the Clone Wars at the Battle of Virujansi. Dreis held Anakin in high regard – ironic, as it was Darth Vader who shot him down at Yavin.

Durge

Character
Expanded Universe

Durge was a Gen'Dai cyborg bounty hunter with a long and ugly two-thousand-year history and the ability to heal from even the most horrendous injuries. He had hunted Mandalorian warriors and Jedi, fighting for the Sith long before the Clone Wars. Over a hundred years before the Battle of Yavin, he was captured by Mandalorians and tortured nearly to death. Emerging from his prolonged healing, including 60 years buried alive, his hatred of Mandalorians saw the near-insane Durge join the Clone Wars to fight the Republic. His reasoning was that their troops were clones of Mandalorian warrior Jango Fett. Durge fought and killed many Jedi and Clones under orders from Count Dooku, regularly battling Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker. Durge was finally destroyed by Anakin, who pushed his escape pod into a sun.

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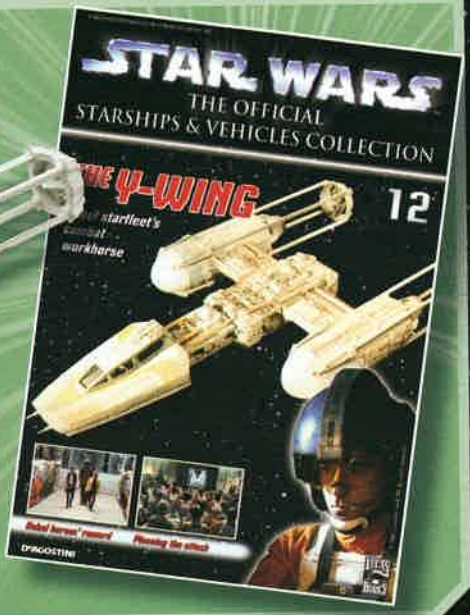

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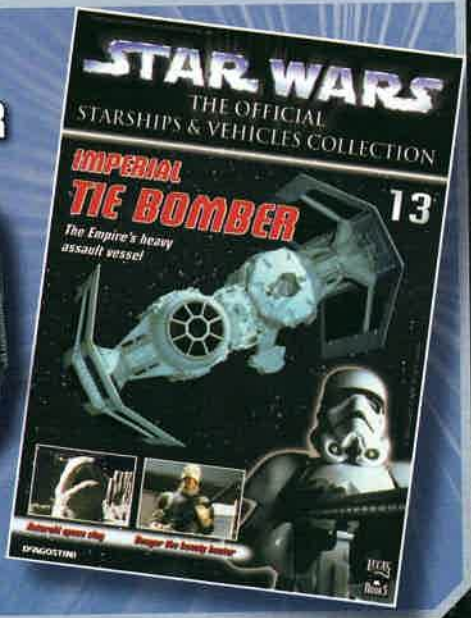
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